

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a

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PTQ3281



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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/013W			

-----1A5416 191554Z /38

O 191433Z DEC 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9215
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
USINT HAVANA
USAID WASHDC

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 004142

TREASURY FOR OASIA/INL - AARON JONES
NSC FOR LLORENS
USCINSO ALSO FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL

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USAID FOR DCHA/OTI - RON ULLRICH AND RUSSELL PORTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/19/2012
TAGS: PGOV, ASEC, CASC, ECON, PREL, OAS, VE
SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE, DECEMBER 19, 2002, 1100 HOURS
LOCAL

REF: A. CARACAS 04089 AND PREVIOUS
B. CARACAS 03990

CLASSIFIED BY: CHARGE D'AFFAIRS FREDERICK B. COOK FOR REASONS 1.5(B) AND
D (D).

1. SUMMARY

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

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-- (C) THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE (TSJ) ISSUED A RULING
DECEMBER 18 TRANSFERRING CONTROL OF THE CARACAS METROPOLITAN
POLICE FROM PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ TO CARACAS MAYOR ALFREDO
PENA, A NOTED ANTI-CHAVEZ POLITICIAN. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED]
-- (U) IN SPEECHES LAST NIGHT TO SUPPORTERS, PRESIDENT HUGO
CHAVEZ AND OPPOSITION LEADER CARLOS ORTEGA EACH CLAIMED THAT
HIS SIDE WAS GAINING THE UPPER HAND IN THE ON-GOING GENERAL
STRIKE.

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-- (U) A PRO-CHAVEZ MARCH IS PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 20 AT THE
PDVSA BUILDING WHERE OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATORS ARE
ESTABLISHED.

SUPREME COURT RULING TAKES CONTROL OF
METROPOLITAN POLICE FROM CHAVEZ

2. (U) THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE (TSJ) ISSUED A RULING
LATE DECEMBER 18 TRANSFERRING CONTROL OF THE CARACAS
METROPOLITAN POLICE FROM PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ TO CARACAS
MAYOR ALFREDO PENA, A NOTED ANTI-CHAVEZ POLITICIAN. CHAVEZ
HAD SEIZED CONTROL OF THE POLICE FORCE BY PRESIDENTIAL
PROCLAMATION ON NOVEMBER 16 AND ENFORCED HIS DECISION BY
SENDING NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO POLICE STATIONS TO ENSURE
THAT RELUCTANT POLICE OFFICERS ACCEPT MILITARY CONTROL. THE
COURT,S DECISION GIVES THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT 15 DAYS TO
TURN OVER CONTROL OF FACILITIES AND COMMAND TO THE MAYOR,S
OFFICE.

B1

[REDACTED]
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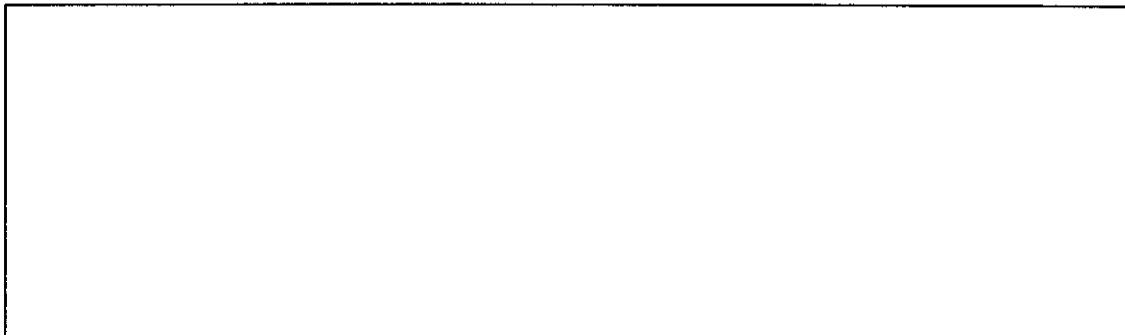
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B1

4. (C)



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GAVIRIA TOLD

REPORTERS AFTER THE DECEMBER 18 SESSION THAT THE TWO SIDES
DISCUSSED EVERYTHING IN THE DRAFT EXCEPT THE MAIN ISSUE OF AN
ELECTORAL SOLUTION.

B1



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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
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	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/013W	

-----1A541C 191554Z /38

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9216
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 004142

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CHAVEZ VOWS TO SAVE PDVSA IN OVERNIGHT SPEECH;
ORTEGA SAYS THAT OPPOSITION IS NEAR VICTORY

5. (U) IN SPEECHES TO SUPPORTERS LATE DECEMBER 18, PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ AND OPPOSITION LEADER CARLOS ORTEGA EACH CLAIMED THAT HIS SIDE WAS GAINING THE UPPER HAND IN THE ON-GOING GENERAL STRIKE. REFERRING TO CHAVEZ AS A DICTATOR, ORTEGA SAID THAT THE OPPOSITION WAS "VERY CLOSE TO VICTORY, WHICH IS NOTHING OTHER THAN CHAVEZ'S EXIT.⁸ ORTEGA ALSO ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 19, INCLUDING NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING MEETINGS AND ATTENDING CHURCH TO PRAY.

6. (U) NOT TO BE OUT DONE, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ PROMISED TO SAVE THE GOV OIL COMPANY PDVSA FROM &COUP-PLOTTING OIL ELITES,⁸ AND TO FIGHT ON IN THE NAME OF HIS BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION DURING A MEANDERING SPEECH BEFORE A RALLY OF SUPPORTERS SPONSORED BY POSITIVE MIDDLE CLASS. CHAVEZ ALSO INVOKED RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS AND SWORE TO THE CROWD THAT HE WOULD &STAY WITH YOU UNTIL THE LAST DAY OF MY LIFE.⁸

CHAVISTA MARCH CALLED FOR FRIDAY
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7. THE WEBSITE FOR THE PRO-CHAVEZ POPULAR REVOLUTION ASSEMBLY IS CARRYING A CALL FROM SERGIO SANCHEZ OF THE UTOPIA PARTY FOR A MARCH TOMORROW, DECEMBER 20. THE MARCH IS PLANNED TO GO FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN MIRAFLORES TO THE PDVSA BUILDING IN THE CHUAO SECTION OF CARACAS, WITH THE GOAL OF &TAKING PDVSA CHUAO.8 OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATORS HAVE GATHERED DAILY IN FRONT OF THE PDVSA CHUAO HEADQUARTERS WITH TENTS AND NOISE-MAKERS FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS AND CONTROL OF THE DEMONSTRATION SPACE HAS EVIDENTLY TAKEN ON SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE.

COOK

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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